WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1989

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Washtenaw County Historical Society itself is very historical. You have only to read the masthead of this publication to learn that it came into existence in 1857, making it the oldest local historical group in the state.

Records of donations of artifacts begin in 1873. Simultaneously the record shows that in 1873 members began the search for a suitable home for these donated "relics", as they were referred to. WCHS has been looking for a museum for a very long time!

It is my hope that during my term as President this Society will actively pursue the goal of a museum of its own. This year we will be examining all possibilities for a museum or a museum-like space.

The possibilities could range from organizing small temporary exhibits in an empty storefront or shop window, to obtaining space for a "mini-museum", a place large enough to install an exhibit in front with more space in back where we could work at organizing our collections.

If we got lucky, we might find a suitable structure that could be used as a museum, workspace and meeting space.

If we got ambitious, perhaps we could fundraise a million dollars and build the Museum/Library/History Center of our dreams! Somewhere within the range of these possibilities lies the appropriate answer for this Society.

You as members can help in this process. I would like you to call me if you have any ideas about possible museum space, or if you are interested in helping develop an exhibit, or working in any capacity on some aspect of museum organization.

Expertise is wonderful, but interest is really the only prerequisite. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand-lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826. If readers know of such anniversaries coming up, please let us know.

WCHS TO VISIT WEBSTER BLACKSMITH SHOP SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

A visit to Webster Historical Society's restored blacksmith-wheelwright shop will highlight the first fall meeting of Washtenaw County Historical Society at 2 p.m., Sunday, September 10.

The visit will include a tour of the 1834 Webster Church, one of the two oldest church buildings in use in Michigan, a visit to Cottonwood Farm and the 1871 township hall.

Everything except the township hall is near the corner of Webster Church and Farrell Roads. The hall is about a mile away on Gregory Road.

The suggested route from Ann Arbor is US -23 north to Territorial Road west (left) about three miles to Webster Church Road and south (left about 1 1/2 miles to the blacksmith shop.

An alternate route is Miller Road west to Zeeb, north (right) on Zeeb to Joy, right on Joy about a mile to Webster Church Road and north (left) on Webster Church Road about a mile to Farrell Road. The square blacksmith shop is a little way north of Farrell.

KAREN O'NEAL HEADS WCHS FOR 1989-90

Karen Koyka O'Neal of the WCHS Board of Directors was elected president for 1989-90 at the annual meeting, succeeding Patrick Owen who is now immediate past-president.

Lawrence W. Ziegler was elected vice-president; Arthur French, recording secretary; Lucy Kooperman, corresponding secretary; and Louisa Pieper, treasurer.

Named to three-year terms on the board were William Wallach, Lois Foyle, Esther Warzynski and Pauline Walters. French was named to a term expiring in 1990. Completing the slate as directors-at-large are Patricia Austin, Rosemarion Blake, Mary Jo Gord, Peter Rocco and Mary Jo Wholihan.

The treasurer's report showed income for the year ending April 30 of $8,884, expenses, $5,062, and total assets of $74,134 for a net increase of $3,822. Income included $2,288 royalties on the county history and a $1,000 gift from the Helen Wild estate.

Resolutions were adopted thanking Mr. and Mrs. John Hathaway for providing space for board meetings; Dixboro Church for use of their hall at a low rent, to Robert Miller, retiring treasurer for three years of dedicated service, and Galen Wilson for continuing to hand letter anniversary certificates since he moved to Chicago.

Framed certificates were also presented to Miller and the Hathaways. Betty Miller, who assisted Bob because of his recent illness, accepted his for him.

Mrs. O'Neal lettered these certificates.

PARKING NETS $695; THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

WCHS gained $695 parking cars during the Art Fair in spite of a near washout Wednesday and Thursday evenings, thanks to Great Lakes Bancorp and Society volunteers.

Great Lakes let us use the lot north of Washington Street. Peter Rocco was chairman with some assistance from wife Kay.

Those who parked cars included Rosemarion Blake, David Braun, Anne Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Chapekis, Lucile Fisher, Lois Foyle, Jackie Greenhut, Marguerite Harms, Lucy Kooperman and Fran Lyman.

Completing the list are Patrick Owen and wife, Sally Kelly-Owen, Pete Rocco, Nancy Schuon, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Steneck, Pauline Walters and Lawrence and Alice Ziegler. Several persons took double shifts.

WCHS WILL VOTE ON BYLAWS CHANGE

WCHS members will be asked to vote on a change in the Bylaws to allow the treasurer to sign checks of $200 or less without a co-signer at the next business meeting.

Presently, all checks for more than $100 must be co-signed. The Board of Directors recommended this change at its June meeting.

NEW STATE MUSEUM

MICHIGAN'S STORY DRAMATICALLY TOLD

The story of Michigan and its people from the ice ages to Tom Selleck and Aretha Franklin was illustrated in the new State of Michigan museum when WCHS toured in June.

Permanent exhibits highlight the story from when the glaciers were gouging out the Great Lakes to around 1900. A temporary exhibit of period and celebrity clothing featured dress-up costumes from 19th century brides right up to Miss America, 1988, with the gown that Kaye Lani Rae Rafko of Monroe wore when she was crowned.

Phase two of permanent exhibits on Michigan from 1900 to the present remains to be completed, probably in 1991.

The museum is housed in a new $36 million Michigan Library and Historical Center which, besides museum and library, houses the state archives and the Great Seal of Michigan.

In a soaring atrium at the entrance to the permanent exhibit is a blue and green 53-foot high topographical map of Michigan and the Great Lakes and three fabricated 60-foot high white pine trees. (A live white pine grows in a center courtyard.)

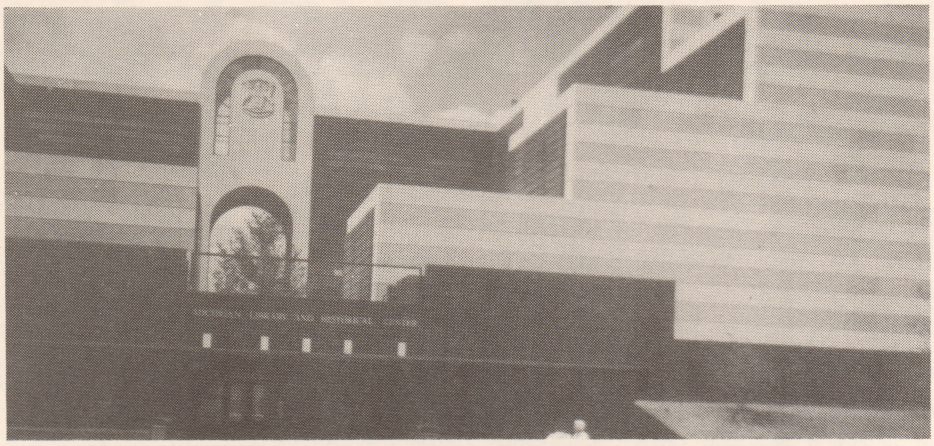
Beneath the map are samples of rocks of Michigan--shale, gypsum, coal, iron ore, copper, sandstone, dolomite, rock salt, coal, sand and gravel, formed long before human history.

Nearby, the prehistoric man gallery reminds us that "Most of Michigan's story is unwritten. It is almost entirely an American Indian story. Its 14,000 years are known through Indian tradition and clues discovered and studied by archaeologists."

The first figures are Paleo-Indians wearing caribou skin clothing and camouflage headdresses they would have worn for hunting. (Inuit people from Canada's Northwest Territory helped create the caribou-skin clothing.)

The sound of Canada geese flying overhead calls our attention to the autumn woodland scene of a winding river with a canoe pulled up on shore containing trade goods and a gun. The Europeans had arrived.

The exhibit is based on an actual photograph of the Pine River near Manistee according to an article in *Michigan History*, March/April 1989. Tourgoers received souvenir booklets of the articles from the magazine.



NEW MICHIGAN LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL CENTER
It opened in March on Washtenaw Street in Lansing.

You enter through a facade of Michigan's Territorial Capitol to the statehood and settlement section. Exhibits include a figure of Michigan's first governor, Stevens T. Mason.

Visitors can experience the bumpity-bump of a wagon on a plank or corduroy road and try a human yoke to carry two pails of water.

Opposite is a fort stockade and the Civil War galleries.

You can see the darkness of mine shafts in a replica copper mine shaft made from a casting of the Arcadian Mine near Houghton. You can push a button and hear the pick axes strike the rock.

Push another button and see pictures of mines and hear a "Cornish miner" talk about his work and the dangers of it.

The lumbering hall with lumber mill and a replica of a lumber baron's home is next, followed by exhibits about rural Michigan and growth in manufacturing in the 19th century.

Exhibits of artifacts and interpretive signs fill out the story of Michigan.

They tell us "Ice created the shape of Michigan. Four major glacial advances began two million years ago. Sheets of ice over a mile thick moved slowly across Michigan.

"The glaciers picked up rocks and soil. They leveled hills and gouged out lake beds. It took thousands of years of melting and gouging to form the Great Lakes.

"Some 9,500 years ago a channel opened between Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River, joining the Great Lakes together. The eastward flow continues today.

"After the glaciers melted, forests of fir and spruce covered the ground. Mastodons, mammoths, giant beavers, caribou and musk oxen appeared.

"By modern times, there were four basic plant communities in Michigan--prairie lands, oak-hickory forests, northern deciduous and pine-hickory forests.

"Extreme weather changes are characteristic of Michigan's climate. Strong west winds carry Arctic air into Michigan, producing storms where it meets warm moist air from the south. Shifts in these winds cause seasonal changes.

"Michigan was formed by fire, sea and ice over four billion years. The Canadian shield and Michigan basin form the basic land mass. The western Upper Peninsula is part of the Canadian shield. It is one of the oldest rock formations in North America.

"Changes inside the earth and volcanic action created the Porcupine and Huron Mountains, Isle Royale and the Keweenaw Peninsula.

"The central part of the Lower Peninsula, the Michigan basin, consists of sedimentary rock made from material left behind by ancient inland seas. Pressure formed the sediments into rock.

"About 14,000 years ago the ancestors from todays Indian people arrived in Michigan. Small family groups lived by hunting caribou, mastodon and other game. Their way of life was shared by peoples throughout North and South America.

"All were descendants of those who had crossed from Siberia to Alaska on a land bridge created by the ice age.

"Archaeologists have pieced together fragments of Indian life left behind. Some stone Indian tools are sharper than steel blades. Chert was the best kind of stone for tools.

The Paleo Indian period was 12,000-8,000 B.C.; Early Archaic, 8,000-6,000 B.C.; Middle Archaic, 6,000-3,000 B.C.; Late Archaic, 3,000-1,000 B.C.; Early Woodland, 1,000-300 B.C.; Middle Woodland 300 B.C.-A.D. 500; Late Woodland, A.D. 500-A.D. 1650; Protohistoric, A.D. 1620 on.

"In 1847, a six-ton mass of copper supported on a cribwork of earth and logs was discovered in Ontonagon County. This is the earliest recorded discovery of prehistoric mining.

"Artifacts made from conch and lightning whelk shells were an important part of the regional trade network. These shells came from the coasts of Florida. In return, Michigan Indians traded copper.

"The Ontonagon boulder, a three ton mass of copper rock, was worshipped as a spirit or manitou by Indians. During the Late Archaic period, copper was used to make tools and beads.

"Earthen mounds placed over graves were first built in the early woodland period. These were rare in Michigan. Burial mounds were usually less than three feet high and up to 35 feet across.

"Smoking began as a ritual activity. The smoke from tubular pipes of stone or clay carried prayers to the spirits. At first Indians smoked mixtures of the leaves and bark of red osier dogwood, bearberry, silky cornel and sumac called *kinnikinnick* by the Chippewa. Later it would be mixed with a more potent plant, tobacco.

"Missionaries' desire to convert the Indians to Christianity brought French missionaries to Michigan. Father Jacques Marquette is the best remembered today. He established missions at Sault Sainte Marie and St. Ignace.

"The market for furs in Europe encouraged exploration of North America. Furs were a sign of status among the wealthy who copied the fashions of the French court.

"Demand soon exceeded the limited supply of European furs. Fortunes could be made by those willing to risk hardship in the North American wilderness. French authorities licensed traders in the building of forts in the upper Great Lakes.

"The Straits of Mackinac, Fort St. Joseph and Detroit became important trading centers.

"Power struggles between France, Great Britain and American colonists brought war to the upper Great Lakes. These conflicts were not only local but related to European disputes. They included the French and Indian War, 1760, and the War of 1812.

"The Raisin River massacre at Frenchtown (now Monroe) outraged the Americans. 'Remember the Raisin' became a battle cry to the end of the War of 1812.

"In 1813, the British defeated an invading troop of Americans at the Battle of the River Raisin. After the British withdrew, their Indian allies killed about 60 wounded prisoners."

CHIEF OGEMAW: WHITE WAVE MELTS US AWAY

The Indian exhibit includes this poignant statement of Chief Ogemaw:

"We do not know our wishes. Our people wonder what has brought you so far from your homes. Your young men have invited us to come and light the council fire. We are here to smoke the pipe of peace but not to sell our lands...

"Your people trespass upon our hunting grounds. You flock to our shores. Our waters grow warm, our lands melt like a cake of ice. Our possessions grow smaller and smaller.

"The warm wave of white men rolls in upon us and melts us away. Our women reproach us, our children want homes. Shall we sell from under them the spot where they spread their blankets?"

A copy of a print, the only known illustration of the massacre, "while inaccurate," is on display. (The original is at William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan.)

"In the 19th century, John Jacob Astor and his American Fur Company dominated the fur trade in Michigan and much of the U.S. After the war of 1812, Astor's company controlled the fur trade from its Mackinac Island headquarters.

"His motto, 'Give the least and get the most,' made him the richest man in America by 1830. When he sold his business in 1834, overtrapping and decreasing demand already pointed toward the end of Michigan's fur trade.

"Henry Rowe Schoolcraft was one of the first serious students of American history. Schoolcraft was a geologist and geographer who traveled widely in the upper midwest. He was appointed Indian agent in Sault Sainte Marie in 1822.

"There he married Jane Johnston whose mother was Chippewa. Schoolcraft carefully recorded many aspects of Indian life, becoming the leading authority of his day on the subject."

The white alabaster urns and white clock from Governor Stevens T. Mason's office which are on display are said to have been a gift to his father, John T. Mason, from the Marquis de LaFayette of France.

Young Mason was appointed acting territorial secretary at age 19 and became acting governor in 1834.

"He authorized a census, one of the requirements for statehood, and over 92,000 people were counted. Mason next called for a constitutional convention which proposed a two-house legislature, a judiciary, the offices of governor, lieutenant-governor and a state superintendent of public instruction.

"The draft of the constitution also authorized the government to build roads, canals and railroads. Voters approved the constitution and elected Mason governor in October 1835.

"After delay by the Toledo War and Congress' opposition to an unauthorized territorial government, President Andrew Jackson finally signed the bill admitting Michigan to the union January 26, 1837."

There is a portrait of John S. Barry, a member of the 1835 constitutional convention, who was elected state senator the same year. He served two terms as governor between 1842-46 and a third in 1850-51.

"The first homes settlers built were log cabins. Soon sawmills made possible frame houses of sawed lumber. By the early 1830s, the Greek Revival style, the most elaborate looking like a Greek temple with columns, reflected the design popular in the east where the builders originated." That is illustrated with a photo of Ann Arbor's little Greek temple, Kempf House.

"Zachariah Chandler, a Detroit businessman, was one of Michigan's most powerful politicians. As a leader of the radical Republicans, he urged reprisals against former Confederate states. He served as U.S. Senator from 1857-1875 and again in 1879.

"The Republican party was founded under the oaks in Jackson, July 6, 1854.

"Civil War's toll: Michigan was ninth in the number of Union troops raised by the states. Almost 15,000--one out of six--died in battle or from disease. Disease, rather than combat, caused two thirds of deaths among common soldiers.

"Ignorance about the cause of disease as well as poor diet and camp sanitation were responsible."

The slide talk on mining tells us that in the 1870s and '80s better drills replaced

hand drills, steam engines took men down and up again. Iron ranges opened up--Gogebic and Menominee.

"There weren't just the Irish and we Cornish anymore. Scotch, German, Swedes, Norwegians and Finns and Italians are still coming, English too.

"In 1846 the Jackson Mining Company had opened the Lake Superior region's first iron mine. It was located near Teal Lake (at present day Negaunee). In 1848, the Jackson Company established a forge on the Carp River to process its ore. Refining ore close to the mines saved shipping costs in the portage around the rapids at Sault Sainte Marie.

"As a result of depressions in 1873 and the early 1890s, scores of independent mines were consolidated into three powerful companies. These giants engaged in all aspects of mining and transport.

"The Cleveland and Iron Cliffs companies merged to form Cleveland Cliffs in 1891 and added the Jackson Iron Company in 1905. Pickands, Mather, formed in 1883, became the nation's second largest producer or iron ore.

"In 1885 Marcus Hanna and other investors formed the M.A. Hanna Company which became the most important firm on the Menominee Range.

Proposals to build the Soo Locks began as early as 1838. Reports of copper in 1841 and iron ore in 1844 spurred efforts to eliminate the bottleneck to shipping. The canal opened in 1855.

A model of a lumber baron's mansion is based upon Muskegon's 1889 Charles H. Hackley house.

"Business men successful in the lumber industry often used their profits to build these magnificent homes popular toward the end of the 19th century. The Queen Anne style frequently featured a variety of textured surfaces, imaginative ornamental trim, both verandas and balconies and rich stained glass, often set in windows with unusual shapes.

"The reality of lumbering was harsh conditions and hard work. In the earliest days, men called choppers used axes to fell the tree. Beginning in the 1870s, sawyers used two-man cross-cut saws to cut down the trees.

"Trimmers cut off the branches, while sawyers cut the trunks into log lengths. Skidders moved logs out of the forest. In the early days they used oxen and later horses to drag the logs over the frozen earth.

"All through the cold winter they stacked logs on the river banks and left them till spring. Then logging stopped.

"The melting snow and ice swelled the rivers and another set of workers, 'river hogs' began rolling the logs into the river and floating them downstream to the sawmills.

"Logs from larger and older trees floated high in the water. For this these prize trees came to be known as cork pines.

"The river hogs often worked for boom companies. Boom companies took the logs of many owners down the same streams together. The logs were branded like cattle in a long drive so that the boom companies could sort the logs by owners when they reached the rivers or bays.

"During the drives, 'the hogs' lived on the river banks or right on the river. Floating cook houses and bunk houses on rafts, called 'wanigans', followed the crews downstream.

"Most of the sawmills were on the natural harbors along the lake shores. Towns grew up around these sawmills all the way around the lower peninsula from Saginaw Bay to Muskegon.

"By 1860, a thousand sawmills were at work in Michigan and, for the first time in American history, lumber manufacturing was becoming a large scale business. For thirty years, beginning in 1869, Michigan turned out more lumber than any other state.

"Mill hands working in town didn't face the isolation of the 'shanty boys' and river hogs, but even to them, life was hardly easy.

"They all worked long hours in the noisy and dangerous sawmills. Every place had its dangers--falling trees, rolling logs, log jams that might begin to move like so many toothpicks.

"There were conveyor chains, unguarded saws and steam boilers with a tendency to explode.

"Everywhere fire was a hazard. Surrounded by sawdust, heaps of scrap lumber, stacks of drying boards, the woodburning boilers for steam powered mills sent out stray sparks that could trigger disaster.

"In 1871, a catastrophic blaze swept west to east from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron. Only ten years later another fire burned over the Thumb area.

"Sawmills were often destroyed by fire. These fires were costly but they had one positive effect--they sped the course of innovation as burned out mills installed newer machinery with each rebuilding.

"The up and down sash saw went through several improvements before the first practical circular saw was introduced. Finally came the band saw which was thinner and more efficient.

"Very early in this period steam replaced waterpower. Steam was available year around and in any quantity for boilers fueled with scrap lumber.

"Faster and faster sawmills called for more and more logs. Innovations in the woods helped meet this demand. With 'big wheels' it became possible to move logs without ice or snow or sleds. Beginning about 1870, narrow gauge railroads into the woods operated year around to bring logs to sawmills.

"The investment in the railroads encouraged the change from selective logging of large trees to clear cutting, taking all the trees along the rail route.

"Michigan's growing rail network moved lumber from the sawmills to market even when the lakes were frozen.

"Very late in the white pine era, a Michigan man named Ephraim Shay invented a specialized locomotive for the twisted, uneven and temporary tracks of the logging railroads. The Shay locomotive's greatest fame was not to be in its native Michigan but in logging operations later in the mountains of the far west.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE 130 KINDS OF APPLES?

"In the spring of 1833 I came to Michigan to select a place for establishing a nursery. In the fall my brother, Z.K. Lay, and myself came to Ypsilanti and brought with us about 25,000 cultivated trees from my nursery near Rochester, New York.

"They consisted of 130 varieties of apples, 75 varieties of pears, 40 of peaches, 3 of apricots, 3 of nectarines, 20 of cherries, 20 of plums, 3 of quinces, 15 of strawberries, 40 of grapes, native and foreign, together with currants, gooseberries, raspberries, etc.

"In the autumn of 1834 we erected a small greenhouse. I think this was the first greenhouse built in Michigan."

Ezra D. Lay

Editor's note: *The E.D. Lay home east of Ypsilanti on Michigan Avenue is pictured on page 69 of the 1874 Washtenaw County atlas. In 1966 the late Charles and Katherine Hagler bought the house for $1 and moved it seven miles north to Berry Road in Superior township.*

The Haglers gave a slide talk about the restoration to WCHS in October 1981 which was reported in the December 1981 ***Impressions.***

"During the lumber boom, Michigan's pine kings accumulated huge fortunes. Some of the money helped to finance a second generation of Michigan industries. The Michigan white pine era was all over in less than one lifetime.

Today the grand houses of the lumber barons stand as reminders not only of people who lived in them but of the people who cut the trees that went into them.

"By 1900 Michigan's majestic white pine, clear and straight-grained, stood in thousands of ordinary houses in Dubuque and Denver, Cheboygan and Chicago, Sioux Falls and Sault Sainte Marie. It supported the rails that linked the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

"Mechanization and scientific agricultural methods increased farm production and decreased the need for farm labor. Farmers welcomed labor saving equipment.

"Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) opened in 1857. It has conducted research and informed farmers of improvements through agricultural extension service which was started in 1875.

"Growing beets for sugar started in the 1890s. In 1898 the first beet sugar factories were in operation in southern Michigan. Processing later moved to the Saginaw-Bay City and Thumb areas. Sugar beets became one of the most profitable crops in Michigan.

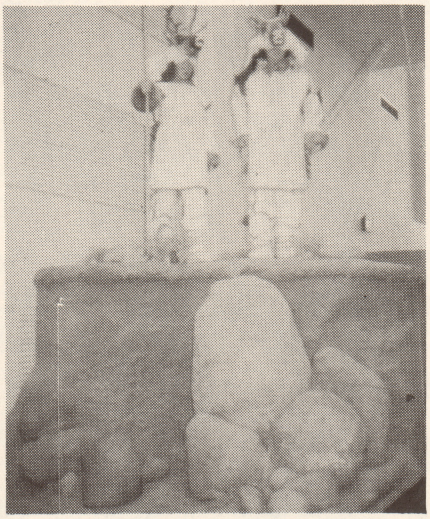
"Weather and soil conditions in the western part of the state are ideal for growing fruit. Westerly winds and Lake Michigan's cold water produce the cool spring temperatures which keep fruit trees from blooming until the danger of frost is past.

"In fall, the warmth of the slowly cooling lake lengthens the growing season and reduces early killing frosts. Cherries, apples, peaches, pears, plums, blueberries, strawberries and grapes grow in western Michigan.

"Each rural town had a general store where a wide variety of dry goods, groceries and produce could be purchased. But shopping was limited until mail order catalogues began to offer a new source of goods.

"Aaron Montgomery Ward started direct mail selling to rural areas in 1872. Fourteen years later the forerunner of Sears, Roebuck and Company began selling watches by mail.

"After rural free delivery was established in 1896, a world of merchandise came to the rural family in the mail box. A farm family could order anything from medicine to diamond rings, from wall paper to farm equipment through a catalogue.



Ancient Michigan Paleo-Indians dressed for hunting in caribou skin.

"Michigan was a national leader in public education. By 1869 all public schools were free for pupils living in each school's district. The schools were financed by the sale of federally donated land.

"A law requiring 12 weeks of school each year for children ages 8-14 was enacted in 1871. Rural students studied in one-room ungraded schools. Classes were held mainly in winter when children were least needed to help on family farms.

"From the time of the Civil War, Michigan's iron and steel industry benefitted from expanding markets both local and national. By 1900 it was a significant factor encouraging the growth of the young auto industry.

"In 1864 the Eureka Iron and Steel Company of Wyandotte was the first manufacturer in the United States to produce steel commercially using the Bessemer process.

"Most Michigan iron products were finished goods rather than intermediate products such as sheet or bar iron. Makers of agricultural implements were found in small cities across southern Michigan.

"Production of stoves and railroad equipment was concentrated in Detroit. Although stoves were made in several other cities, Detroit produced the most. Names like 'Jewel' and 'Garland' made Detroit synonymous with stove making in the public mind.

"Jeremiah Dwyer or his brother, James, had a hand in founding each of the three companies that became Detroit's biggest stove makers--The Detroit Stove Works, Michigan Stove Company and Peninsular Stove Company.

"In 1892, Michigan Stove Company, which claimed to be the world's largest, employed 1,200 workers and produced nearly 76,000 stoves. The largest stove company outside Detroit was the Round Oak Stove Works of Dowagiac.

"Another major user of iron and steel was the railroad car and wheel industry. By the end of the 19th century Detroit was the nation's leading producer of railroad cars.

"From its incorporation in 1864 until the Peninsular Car Company was organized in 1885, the Michigan Car Company was the leading firm in the railroad car industry. The Russell Wheel and Foundry Company developed a specialized market in manufacturing equipment for logging railroads.

"In the 1890s mergers reduced the number of companies but production remained high.

"Agricultural equipment manufacturers were scattered throughout the prosperous farming counties of southern Michigan. Most makers of farm equipment served local customers. Others such as Advance Thresher of Battle Creek and Port Huron Tractors supplied much larger markets.

"The Gale Manufacturing Company of Albion became a worldwide concern through the manufacture and sale of its 'Little Injun' three-wheel sulky plow and 'Daisy' walking cultivator.

"Grand Rapids furniture firms adopted innovative manufacturing and marketing techniques to increase their sales and build a national reputation.

"Furniture makers in Grand Rapids built large factories that allowed easy movement of materials and finished goods. They took advantage of new machinery for cutting, turning and carving pieces that appealed to popular taste.

"In 1876, the centennial exposition in Philadelphia featured the work of three Grand Rapids firms--Berkey and Gay, the Phoenix Company and Nelson, Matter.

"Local furniture makers organized a semi-annual trade show two years later and, in 1881, formed the Grand Rapids Furniture manufacturers Association." A Detroit Chair Company poster is on display.

"The Battle Creek cereal makers revolutionized the concept of selling food with advertising, marketing and promotions. They not only developed a new class of foods but also our knowledge of cereal grains and their nutritional value.

"Dr. John H. Kellogg, who became director of Battle Creek Health Sanitarium in 1876, influenced modern ideas about nutrition, physiology, fresh air and physical culture. He invented toasted corn flakes and many other grain and nut products. He sold these products to a limited public through a mail order business.

"John's brother and assistant, W.K. Kellogg, became increasingly frustrated by patent infringements and commercial success of rival health food producers. He formed a separate company in 1906.

"Charles W. Post, an Illinois businessman, came to Battle Creek Sanitarium to recover his health. Convinced of the health benefits of Dr. Kellogg's practices, Post established his own medical facility in the same area.

"Post introduced Postum cereal coffee in 1895 and Grape Nuts in 1898. By 1900 he was running a million dollar business.

"Between 1902 and 1904, 42 companies, hoping to imitate the success of Post and Kelloggs, were started in Battle Creek.

"Cereal development and the development of Battle Creek as a cereal city began with the diet and health concerns of local Seventh-Day Adventists. The Adventists established the Western Reform Health Institute in 1866 under Dr. John H. Kellogg's leadership.

"This sanitarium, often called 'the san' earned a national reputation as a medical facility and health food innovator.

"Vernor's Ginger Ale, Detroit: According to company tradition, the Vernor's secret recipe was actually an accidental discovery. James Vernor experimented by mixing soft drinks in his Detroit drug store.

"Before leaving to serve in the Civil War, he mixed ginger roots and oils in an oaken cask. When he returned, he opened the cask and mixed the syrup into a drink. He discovered that the years of aging had given the syrup a distinct and pleasing taste.

"He first sold it to the public in 1866 and it became an immediate success. Vernor's ginger ale is now distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"Pharmaceutical industry: The Upjohn Company was established in Kalamazoo in 1885. Parke, Davis and Company began in Detroit in the 1860s as a small drug store based operation. By the 1890s it had become one of the world's largest producers of pharmaceuticals and a leader in drug research.

"Wyandotte and Midland chemical companies: Salt deposits south of Detroit provided the raw material for large scale production of soda ash used in the manufacture of glass, soaps and paint.

"Captain John B. Ford, founder of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company mined salt deposits in the Detroit area for use in the production of soda ash needed for glass making. In 1894 he formed the Michigan Alkali Company which later became Wyandotte Chemical Company.

"The Solvay process company treated salt to produce soda ash, bicarbonate of soda, caustic soda and other products.

"Herbert H. Dow founded his chemical firm to extract bromine and chlorine from Midland's underground brines. Midland was already the world's largest producer of bromine when Dow arrived there in 1890. His Dow Chemical Company was incorporated in 1897 and became the source of over 400 additional products extracted from local brines.

"Bromine was used in dyes, photographic chemicals, metallurgy and medicines. Chlorine was used in bleach for textiles and paper.

"Detroit, Tampa of the north: In the 1880s, tobacco products were one of Detroit's most valuable commodities. The local climate and the manufacturing process itself gave Detroit cigars and chewing tobacco a special flavor.

"Because Detroit had a large pool of non-union labor, tobacco company owners could pay lower wages than their competitors with unionized shops. John J. Bagley's Mayflower chewing tobacco and Daniel Scotten's Hiawatha brand were popular favorites.

"Cigars were also made in outstate cities including Escanaba, Marquette and Kalamazoo.

"In the late 19th century brewing beer was a statewide business. Except for the Stroh Brewing Company, beer manufacturing never grew into a giant industry in Michigan. The 1894 Michigan census lists a total of 87 breweries throughout the state, 28 in Detroit.

"At least one brewer served local consumers in smaller cities such as Ontonagon, Rogers City, Frankenmuth and Escanaba. Popular brands included Bosch, Carling, Pfeiffer and Geyer.

"The first Michigan paper mill was established near Monroe in 1834. The industry remained small until after the Civil War when new production techniques were adopted. By the early 1900s Kalamazoo was the state's largest paper making center."

'THE REAL MC COY' FROM YPSILANTI

A portrait of the Black inventor, Elijah McCoy, is on display in the state museum. Not noted there is that he grew up in Ypsilanti in the mid-19th century.

The museum information says: "The son of former slaves, he was a mechanical engineer who held 78 patents for his inventions. His most important one was a lubricating cap used in locomotives and steam ships.

"Discrimination prevented McCoy from finding work as a mechanical engineer despite training at the University of Edinburgh. He was a railroad fireman in his early years in Michigan.

"In 1882, he settled in Detroit where he later organized the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company. Among his inventions were an ironing table, a lawn sprinkler, a scaffold support and a vehicle tire."

A.P. Marshall of Ypsilanti has recently written a booklet about him, "The Real McCoy of Ypsilanti," which is available at the Ypsilanti Museum.

PITT LENGTHENED ITS NAME 150 YEARS AGO

Pittsfield Township Historical Society celebrated the sesquicentennial of the township name change from Pitt to Pittsfield at its April meeting with a program about "Pittsfield Yesteryears."

The name was changed by state law March 22, 1839 at the state capital in Detroit and signed by Michigan's first governor, Stevens T. Mason, to take effect the first Monday in April.

Pitt was organized five years earlier in John Gilbert's log cabin which soon became the Harwood Place on Michigan Avenue.

Incidentally, the dust jacket of *Washtenaw County, An Illustrated History* by Ruth Bordin, 1988, shows the Harwood place as pictured in the 1874 *Washtenaw County Atlas*. Mr. and Mrs. Webb Harwood live there today.

TOM SELLECK'S TUX, ROCK MUSICIAN'S LOINCLOTH, 1988 MISS AMERICA'S GOWN WERE ALL PART OF 'MICHIGAN DRESSES UP' EXHIBIT AT STATE MUSEUM

"Michigan Dresses Up: Costumes of Celebration," the temporary exhibit at the new state museum when WCHS visited, featured everything from a christening dress to a loincloth worn on stage by a rock musician.

Several ethnic and religious groups were represented. Owners, whether celebrities, government officials or ordinary citizens, were identified.

The family section included christening, Catholic first communion and Lutheran confirmation dresses and a Jewish boy's bar mitzvah costume, high school graduation and prom dresses as well as wedding dresses from 1860 to 1947.

There was an elaborate gown from Mexico worn by an Oceana County girl in 1982 at her *Quincenera*, a traditional fifteenth birthday celebration and presentation to the community. Hispanic communities in Michigan have been celebrating these in Michigan since the early 1960s.

Another evening gown was worn at the Black debutante's cotillion in 1987 in Lansing. "A six-year social and civic training program culminates in 12th grade with this event which began in 1965."

"As early as the 1830s, Michigan brides wore wedding gowns of white satin and other fine fabrics. Many brides still preferred other colors, however. It was not until the 1900s that white was universally associated with wedding gowns," the exhibit stated.

The 1860 gown was green plaid with very full skirt supported by a crinoline cage and tight bodice for a June wedding in Mount Pleasant. "The plaid fabric reflected a fad for things Scottish, sparked by a recent visit of Queen Victoria to Scotland."

Other gowns reflected then current styles -- 1882 bustle effect, a short 1920 chemise style worn by former Governor Fred M. Warner's daughter and a long white satin and lace gown with long train worn by a Detroit Polish bride in 1947.

There was an informal cream colored suit worn by G. Mennen Williams at his wedding to Nancy Lace Quirk in Ypsilanti, June 26, 1937.

A ceremonies of state section showed costumes worn at inaugurals and other functions by officials from Michigan or their wives. Included were First Lady Betty Ford, Governor and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams, Governor and Mrs. John Swainson, Governor and Mrs. William Milliken and Michigan Lieutenant Governor Martha Griffiths.

The oldest of these was a gown worn by Michigan Senator Stockbridge's wife at the second inaugural of President Grover Cleveland, March 4, 1893.

Celebrities, represented with stage costumes, were Tom Selleck, Magician Harry Blackstone, Miss America 1988, Kaye Lani Rae Rafko of Monroe and Miss Michigan 1960, Ann Marston.

The rest of the celebrities were Motown recording stars and rock musicians including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band and Motor City Madman Ted Nugent, a guitarist famous for his outrageous performances.

He sent a loin coth he wore on stage, made from an antelope he shot and tanned.

COUPLE GIVES WCHS BED THAT ESCAPED SAN FRANCISCO FIRE

A massive, solid mahogany four-poster bed that narrowly escaped the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906 has been given to WCHS by William P. and Janice R. Kavanaugh of Pinckney.

It will be on loan to Cobblestone Farm which will display it.

The circa 1855-65 custom made extra-size bed has posts eight foot four inches tall and the original horsehair mattress and foundation. (Most homes today have only eight foot ceilings.)

It was made for a lumber baron named Ericson who made his fortune in San Francisco after emigrating there from Minnesota during the gold rush, according to Mrs. Kavanaugh.

His mansion, now demolished, was on Pacific Avenue just west of where the fire was halted at Van Ness Avenue.

HAMMER DULCIMER AND BANJO PLAYER ENTERTAINS ANNUAL MEETING WITH FOLK TUNES, BALLADS

Betsy Beckerman of Ann Arbor played and sang folk tunes and ballads with a hammer dulcimer and banjo at the annual WCHS meeting.

At other times, she performs at Flint's Crossroads Village historic park.

The hammer dulcimer is "kind of like the inside of a piano," she said. Apparently, they originated in Persia in the tenth century. They spread to Spain and the Balkans in the 15th century, then Europe and finally, the Far East.

"In Michigan you will hear people refer to this as a 'true dulcimer' or 'Michigan dulcimer' because there's another instrument, a long skinny lap instrument that's called an Appalachian dulcimer."

"The banjo is the most truly American instrument. Apparently, the four-string banjo came over in much different form with the slaves from Africa. A minstrel performer named Joe Sweeny is credited with adding the fifth string -- that's what makes it sound very distinctive."

"In the 1840s there was a stunt that became popular among plantation slaves called the cakewalk. It was actually making fun of their masters. Whoever could strut around and look more arrogant, I guess, was the one who won."

"In the 1890s white performers in black face picked this up and ultimately it became a popular dance step among white people in the 1890s-1900s."

She was puzzled about the jumpy cheerful tune of a song about the sinking of the Titanic that she ran across. She found that the tune had been recycled. It came from the Black tradition. "The ship sank April 14, 1912. By the 16th they were publishing songs about it and selling them for five or ten cents apiece," she said.

She played "Liberty," a still popular square dance tune; "Gary Owen," popular during the Revoluntionary War; probably from England; "Redwing," "Barbara Allan," Americanized, probably from Scotland; and "Off to California," probably originally Irish.

She sang a song found int he diary of a Mrs. Price who lived in Illinois which she calls "Housewife's Lament." The chorus is "Life is a toil and life is a trouble, nothing is as I would wish it to be." It ends with "I spend my whole life in a battle with dirt...She laid down and died and was buried in dirt."

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS INVOLVE:

1775 Sailor, Dodge House, Barn Dance, Saline Founder, Fall Festival.

Chelsea Historical Society: 8:30 p.m. second Monday (September 11) at railroad depot, North Main at tracks. Their July quilt show was so successful they plan another next year with quilts also for sale.

Dexter Society: 8: p.m. first Thursday at museum, 3443 Inverness. Museum hours 1-3 p.m. Friday-Saturday or by appointment (call 426-2519).

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. Dr. John C. Dann of UM Clements Library speaking on "The Nagle Journal," the diary of a sailor from 1775-1841, September 18.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday, at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Northfield Society: The Society will have one of four annual membership meetings in early October, details to be arranged.

They expect to move shortly into part of the restored Dodge House, headquarters of the new Northfield Township Area Library. The grand opening will be Saturday, September 9.

The Dodge family moved into the house in 1905. Family members are invited including Helen Dodge McArthur, now of Jenks, Oklahoma, who grew up in the house.

Salem Society: The Society will kick-off its "Year of the Barn" with a barn dance, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 30, in a barn at 51828 Eight Mile Road, west of Napier.

Matt Theeke, a Salem resident who attends Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, intends to document all existing historic barns in the township. He got an $1,800 grant from the National Foundation for the Humanities.

Saline Society: 7 p.m. third Wednesday (September 20) at Saline Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road.

The Society wants to erect a permanent gazebo-type building to Saline founder, Orange Risdon, in Oakwood Cemetery. They have asked Wystan Stevens, unofficial Ann Arbor historian, to talk about the cemetery and cemetery buildings in October.

They also recently removed a cupola from a 150-year-old barn built on land Ridson once owned that now has to be moved. They plan to dismantle the barn and store it until they can re-erect it.

Webster Society: Annual fall festival 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday, September 23, at Webster Corners, Webster Church and Farrell Roads south of Territorial Road, with rummage and antique sale, country store, bake sale and art show.

About 25 artisans will show and sell their wares. There will be a petting zoo, hayrides, clowns and musical entertainment. Luncheon, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pig roast dinner, 5-7 p.m., $7 adults, $3.50 children.

Mr. Drew will bring his Lakeshore and Lyndon Central railroad engine. Youngsters can play old time games and crafts all day for $2 admission to that area.

Chelsea artist Ben Bower will talk on "Interpretation of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County History," at the regular meeting 7:45 p.m. Monday, October 9, at Don Zeeb home, 3300 West Joy Road.

Ypsilanti Society: Annual craft show at museum, 220 North Huron, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, October 14. Regular museum hours 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. For information about their archives call 482-4990 weekday mornings.

City Historian Doris Milliman tells us the museum is without a director since the city did not fund it this year. Ann McCarthy has filled the part-time position for the past ten years.

The distinctive old Ypsilanti water tower and the Starkweather Chapel in Highland Cemetery are both 100 years old this year, she noted. A friends group has been formed to restore the chapel.

Henceforth, the museum will call its guides "docents" because of their special training.

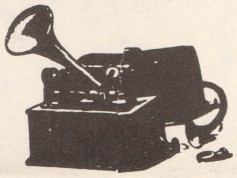
CURATOR WILL SPEAK

Nancy Bryk, curator of Domestic Life at Greenfield Village, will talk on "Victorian Interiors" at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 8, at Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, as part of the Ann Arbor Area Preservation Alliance Old House Clinics.

'WHAT IS IT' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it" game for children to schools and another for adults.

They are available for classes and meetings, subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Karen O'Neal, chairwoman, 665-2242.



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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2:00 p.m. Sunday
September 10, 1989

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